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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 remain in this application for examination. Applicants express their sincere appreciation for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 11-14 and 20, however upon reviewing Hamada et al. '543, Applicants' respectfully submit that their claims are not anticipated by Hamada et al. '543.

Objection to the Drawings:

The drawings have been rejected because there is no support in the drawings for the claimed language "a pair of horizontally spaced side frame members" as recited in claim 15. Applicants respectfully point out that the side frame members are horizontally spaced from one another, they are not horizontal themselves, just spaced that way. The side frame members have a substantial vertical component when the seat back is raised. In almost all cases, when the child seat is installed on a seat the seat back is raised, so that the side frame members are substantially vertical.

Applicants have amended claim 15 to remove this confusion by canceling "horizontally spaced" in line 3 and substituting the phrase "a pair of side frame members that are horizontally spaced from one another." Consequently, there is no need to amend the drawings since what is actually being claimed is now more clearly set forth.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, because of the recitation of horizontally spaced frame members. Applicants have addressed this confusion by making the language more readily understandable by reciting that the side frame members "are horizontally spaced from one another."

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1-2, 4-10 and 15-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hamada et al. '543. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In order for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) to be sustainable, it is necessary that every limitation of the claim be taught in a single reference. This is not the case with respect to Applicant's

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independent claims 1 and 15 because there is no disclosure in Hamada et al. '543 of the following claim limitations:

In Claim 1--

an anchorage having at least one coupler adapted to couple with the complementary coupler on the child restraint seat to retain the child seat on the vehicle seat; the anchorage being movable with respect to the vehicle seat and being biased to a first position with respect to the vehicle seat, the first position being indicative of the absence of a child restraint seat attached to the anchorage (emphasis supplied). . .

and in Claim 15--

an anchorage bar mounted on the cross bar and having first and second couplers thereon for coupling with couplers on the child restraint seat to restrain the child restraint seat on the vehicle seat; the anchorage bar being movable with respect to the cross bar from a first position to a second position and being biased to the first position (emphasis supplied). . .

This structure is not disclosed in Hamada et al. '543 because in Hamada '543 the anchorage bar 46 never moves with respect to the vehicle seat, rather the anchorage bar is stationary with respect to the vehicle seat. As is readily apparent from Figs. 5, 6 and 15 of Hamada et al. the structure corresponding to the claimed anchorage bar is the "fixture bar 46," not the movable bar 50. It is clear in every instance in Hamada et al. that the cross bars 46 and 110 are fixed and are not movable, while the bar 50, which does not anchor the child seat, moves back from the anchorage bar 46 upon coupling the fixture attachment 44 of the child seat to the anchorage bar.

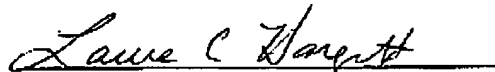
This is not a distinction without a difference in that in claims 1 and 15 there is a position sensor associated with the anchorage for detecting movement of the anchorage (claim 1) and for detecting movement of the anchorage bar (claim 15). In Hamada et al. '543 the anchorage or anchorage bar 46 does not move with respect to the seat, rather it is the rod 50 (which is not an anchor) that is displaced.

Claims 2, 4-10 and 14-19 each depend from independent claims 1 and 15. These claims further limit independent claims 1 and 15 and are allowable over Hamada et al. '543 for the same reasons that claims 1 and 15 are allowable.

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In view of the aforementioned considerations, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and passed to issue. If the Examiner for any reason feels a personal conference with Applicants' attorneys might expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned locally.

Respectfully submitted,



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